

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA:YPI
APPROVED BY ARA:SASHELTON
ARA/CAR:AHEWITT
DOD:J REINERTSON

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O 040019Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085747

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, TD, US

SUBJECT:OMEGA TRINIDAD AND TOGABO

REFS: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 975, (B) PORT OF SPAIN 1000, (C)
STATE 116537, (D) STATE 116538, AND (E) STATE 167743

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REFTEL (A) REQUEST FOR TEXT
OF NOTE DESIGNED TO MEET FM DONALDSON'S THREE POINTS
AND SERVE AS BASIS FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO PRO-
LONG OMEGA STATION OPERATION THROUGH 1980. REFTEL (B)
REQUEST FOR SUMMARY HISTORY OF US TRINIDADIAN NEGO-
TIATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL
REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME AS THESE RECORDS MUST BE
RECALLED FROM PERMANENT STORAGE. MOREOVER, THIS HIS-
TORICAL EXERCISE IS A NO-PROFIT ONE, AS WILLIAMS'
VIEWS OF GOTT-US RELATIONS SINCE 1961 (YEAR IN WHICH
THE WEST INDIES DEFENSE AREAS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED)
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ARE NOT BELIEVED SUSCEPTIBLE TO MODIFICATION. DEPART-
MENT BELIEVES THAT WILLIAMS' INSERTION OF THIS THEME
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS, AT BEST, A GAMBIT AIMED AT
OBTAINING COMPENSATION IN EXCHANGE FOR AN AGREEMENT.
AS WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PAY CASH COMPENSATION, IT
COULD BECOME AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE TO MUTUAL
AGREEMENT. OUR BEST TACTICS, THEREFORE, APPEAR TO BE

TO PROMISE SUBSEQUENT DELIVERY OF THE SUMMARY HISTORY WHILE PRESSING ON GROUNDS OF BUDGETARY AND CONTRACT DIFFICULTIES FOR PRIOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BASED ON TERMS CONVEYED TO EMBASSY IN REFTELS (C), (D), AND IF NECESSARY (E).

2. IN PRESENTING NOTE, TEXT OF WHICH IS GIVEN BELOW, YOU SHOULD INFORM DONALDSON THAT SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE PREPARED FOR GOTT ON BASIS OF DOCUMENTATION NOW BEING RECALLED FROM FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER IN ST. LOUIS, BUT THIS WILL ENTAIL SOME WEEKS TO COMPLETE. ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS, THE GENERAL PICTURE WHICH EMERGES REFLECTS US UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER THE TEMPORARY, LOW-POWER STATION IN TRINIDAD SHOULD BE CONVERTED TO BECOME ONE OF THE EIGHT PERMANENT STATIONS IN THE WORLDWIDE OMEGA NETWORK. WHILE AWARE OF THE GOTT DESIRE FOR GREATER TRINIDADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE OPERATION OF THE STATION, THE US DESIRED TO AWAIT RESOLUTION OF THAT ISSUE BEFORE PROPOSING JOINT OPERATION OF THE STATION ON THE SAME MODEL AS IN NORWAY, FRANCE, ARGENTINA, ETC. THE DETERMINATION IN 1973 THAT PROPAGATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OMEGA SYSTEM FAVORED A PERMANENT STATION IN LIBERIA BROUGHT TO A CLOSE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TRINIDADIAN PARTICI-
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PATION SINCE IT WAS OPTIMISTICALLY BELIEVED THAT THE TOTAL SYSTEM WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO YEARS AND OMEGA TRINIDAD CLOSED. CONSEQUENTLY, DIRECT COMPARISON OF THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF THE TRINIDAD STATION WITH THOSE OF OTHER OMEGA STATIONS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THEY ARE ALL, IN CONTRAST TO TRINIDAD, PERMANENT STATIONS IN THE SYSTEM.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE NOTE YOU ARE PRESENTING HAS ACCOMMODATED DONALDSON'S DESIRE FOR A FIRM TERMINATION DATE FOR THE AGREEMENT IN LIEU OF REFERENCE TO COMPLETION OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATION (PARA 3, REFTTEL B).

4. TEXT OF NOTEFOLLOWS: (COMPLIMENTARY OPENING ... BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONCERNING THE OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION AT CHAGAURAMUS, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE 'STATION,' AND TO PROPOSE THAT A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT BE CONCLUDED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR JOINT OPERATION OF THE STATION UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1980.

5. THE EMBASSY FURTHER PROPOSES THAT THE AGREEMENT SPECIFY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE STATION MAY BE USED AS FOLLOWS: 'OMEGA SIGNALS FROM THE FACILITY SHALL BE USED ONLY FOR NAVIGATION, SEARCH AND RESCUE, TIME DISSEMINATION AND OTHER PEACEFUL PURPOSES AS AGREED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS.'

6. THE EMBASSY WISHES FURTHER TO PROPOSE THAT THE AGREEMENT CONTAIN PROVISION FOR CESSATION OF STATION OPERATIONS IN THE EVENT OF INTERNATIONAL HOSTILITIES. SUCH A PROVISION COULD BE STATED AS FOLLOWS:

'THE GOVERNMENTS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE UNITED STATES SHALL USE THEIR BEST ENDEAVORS TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF THE STATION IN PHASE WITH THE WORLDWIDE OMEGA SYSTEM AND AGREE TO CONSULT URGENTLY IF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION SHOULD REQUIRE STATION OPERATIONS TO BE CEASED TEMPORARILY.'

7. THE EMBASSY HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT IF THE FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THIS NOTE AND ITS REPLY TO THAT EFFECT SHALL TOGETHER CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTINUED JOINT OPERATION OF THE STATION UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1980. DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE COMPLETED SUBSEQUENTLY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS." (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)

8. AS YOU HAVE NOTICED, NO MENTION IS MADE IN THIS NOTE OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ALREADY PRESENTED TO THE GOTT (REFTEL D) ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MFA MAY NOT WISH CABINET TO KNOW IT HAS BEEN SITTING ON THAT PROPOSED AGREEMENT SINCE NOVEMBER 10. IN PRESENTING THE NOTE, YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, SEEK DONALDSON'S VERBAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE GOTT WILL ACCEPT THAT EARLIER DRAFT WITH MODIFICATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN AS BASIS FOR THE FINAL AGREEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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